

at-o-my² (ät'ä-mä) *n.*, *pl.* -mies. (< an *atomy*, respelling of ANATOMY.) *Archaic.* A giant person or a skeleton.

a-to-nal (ä-tö'nal) *adj.* Mus. Having apparently no key or tonality. — **a-to-nal-ly** *adv.*

a-to-nal-ism (ä-tö'nal-izm) *n.* Mus. 1. The lack of a tonal center or key as a principle of musical composition. 2. The theory of atonal composition.

a-to-nal-i-ty (ä-tö'nal-i-tē) *n.* A style of musical composition in which tonal center or key is disregarded.

at once *adv.* 1. At one time: SIMULTANEOUSLY. 2. Immediately <left at once when we heard the news>.

a-tone (ä-tön') *v.* **a-toned**, **a-ton-ing**, **a-tones**. [ME *atonen*, to be reconciled < at *one*, in agreement: *at*, at + *one*, one.] — *vi.* 1. To make amends, as for a fault or sin. 2. *Archaic.* To agree. — *vt.* *Archaic.* 1. To expiate. 2. To reconcile or harmonize. 3. To conciliate: *APPEASE*. — **a-ton/a-ble**, **a-tone/a-ble** *adj.* — **a-ton'er** *n.*

word history: The derivation of *atone*, from *at* and *one*, has been obscured somewhat by the fairly recent change in the pronunciation of *one*. *One* used to be pronounced like *own*, but since the 17th century it has been pronounced like *won*, the past tense of *win*. The older pronunciation survives in *alone*, *lone*, *lonely*, and *only* in addition to *atone* and its derivatives; the new pronunciation occurs in *once*.

a-tone-ment (ä-tön'ment) *n.* 1. Amends made for an injury or wrong: EXPIATION. 2. In the Hebrew Scriptures man's reconciliation with God after having transgressed the covenant. 3. **Atonement**. a. The redemptive life and death of Christ. b. The reconciliation of God and man thus brought about by Christ. 4. *Christian Science.* The radical obedience and purification, exemplified in the life of Jesus, by which humanity finds oneness with God. 5. *Archaic.* Reconciliation: concord.

a-ton-ic (ä-tön'ik) *adj.* [Fr. *atonique* < Gk. *atonos*. — see *ATONY*.] 1. Not accented, as words and syllables. 2. *Pathol.* Relating to, caused by, or marked by atony. — *n.* An unaccented word, syllable, or sound. — **at'o-nic/i-ty** (ät'ä-nis'i-tē) *n.*

at-o-ny (ät'ä-nē) *n.* [Lat. *atonia* < Gk. *atonos*, slack: *a-*, without + *tonos*, stretching, tone.] 1. Insufficient muscular tone. 2. Lack of accent or stress in phonetics.

a-top (ä-töp') *adv.* On or at the top. — *prep.* On top of. — **a-top/adj.**

-ator *suff.* [ME *-atour* < OFr. < Lat. *-ator*: *-atus*, *-ate* + *-or*, *-or*.] One that acts in a given manner < radiator >.

-atory *suff.* [ME < Lat. *-atorius*: *-atus*, *-ate* + *-orius*, *-ory*.] 1. a. Of or relating to < perspiratory > b. Tending to < amendatory > 2. One that is connected with < reformatory >

ATP (ät'tē'pē) *n.* [A(DENOSINE) T(RI)P(HOSPHATE).] An adenosine-derived nucleotide, C₁₀H₁₆N₅O₁₃P₃, that supplies energy to cells through its conversion to ADP.

ATP-ase (ät'tē'pē'ās) *n.* An enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP.

at-ra-bil-i-ous (ät'rä-bil'yās) also **at-ra-bil-i-ar** (bil'ē-rä) *adj.* [Lat. *atra bilis*, black bile, transl. of Gk. *melankhōlia*. — see *MELANCHOLY*.] 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Ill-tempered: surly. — **at-ra-bil-i-ous-ness** *n.*

A-treus (ä'trē'as) *n.* [Gk.] Gk. Myth. A king of Mycenae, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

a-tri-a (ä'trē-ä) *n.* *var. pl.* of *ATRIUM*.

a-tri-o-ven-tric-u-lar (ä'trē-ö-vēn-trik'yä-lär) *adj.* Of or relating to the atria and the ventricles of the heart.

a-trip (ä'trip') *adj.* *adv.* Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor.

a-tri-um (ä'trē-üm) *n.*, *pl.* **a-tri-a** (ä'trē-ä) or **-ums**. [Lat. *atrium*.] 1. a. A central courtyard, as in ancient Roman houses. b. A multistoried central court, as in a hotel, often having a skylight. 2. A bodily cavity or chamber, as in the heart. — **a-tri-al** *adj.*

a-tro-cious (ä'trō'shəs) *adj.* [Lat. *atrox*, *atroc*, cruel.] 1. Extremely evil or cruel: MONSTROUS <an atrocious felony> 2. Exceptionally bad: ABOMINABLE <atrocious cooking> <atrocious rudeness> — **a-tro-cious-ly** *adv.* — **a-tro-cious-ness** *n.*

a-tro-c-i-ty (ä'trō's-i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. Atrocious condition, quality, or behavior. 2. An atrocious action, situation, or object: OUTRAGE.

at-ro-phy (ät'rō-fē) *n.*, *pl.* -phies. [Lat. *atrophia* < Gk. < *atrophos*, ill-nourished: *a-*, without + *trophē*, food.] 1. *Pathol.* The emaciation or wasting away of bodily tissues or organs. 2. A diminution or degeneration < moral atrophy > — *v.* -**phied**, -**phy-ing**, -**phies**. — *vt.* To affect with atrophy: — *vi.* To waste away: WITHER. — **a-troph/ic** (ä'trōf'ik), **at-ro-phous** *adj.*

at-ro-pine (ät'rō-pēn', -pīn) also **at-ro-pin** (-pīn) *n.* [G. *Atropin* < NLat. *Atropa*, genus name of belladonna < Gk. *atropos*, unchangeable.] An extremely poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, C₁₇H₂₃NO₃, derived from belladonna and related plants and used to dilate the pupil of the eye and as an anesthetic and antispasmodic.

At-ro-pos (ät'rō-pōs', -pās) *n.* [Gk. < *atropos*, inexorable.] Gk. Myth. One of the three Fates.

at-tach (ä-tich') *v.* -**tached**, -**tach-ing**, -**tach-es**. [ME *attachen* < OFr. *attacher*, of Germanic orig.] — *vt.* 1. To fasten on or affix to: connect or join. 2. To connect as an adjunct or associated part. 3. To add, as a signature. 4. To ascribe or assign < attached no importance to the incident > 5. To bind by personal ties, as of affection or loyalty < very attached to their pets > 6. To appoint officially. 7. To assign

(personnel) to a military unit on a temporary basis. 8. *Law.* To seize (persons or property) by legal writ. — *vi.* To adhere. — **at-tach/a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tach'er** *n.*

*** SYN:** ATTACH, AFFIX, CLIP, CONNECT, COUPLE, FASTEN, FIX, MOOR, SECURE. *vi.* *core meaning:* to join one thing to another < the hinges to which the door is attached >.

at-ta-ché (ät'ä-shä'f'ä-shä') *n.* [Fr. < p. part. of *attacher*, to attach.] One officially assigned to the staff of a diplomatic mission to serve in a given capacity: < a commercial attaché >.

attaché case *n.* A briefcase resembling a small suitcase, with hinges and flat sides.

at-tach-ment (ä-täch'ment) *n.* 1. The act of attaching or condition of being attached. 2. Something, as a tie, band, or fastening, that joins one thing to another. 3. A bond of affection or loyalty. 4. A supplementary part: ACCESSORY < a vacuum cleaner with attachments > 5. *Law:* a. The legal seizure of a person or property. b. The writ ordering an attachment.

at-tack (ä-täk') *v.* -**tacked**, -**tack-ing**, -**tacks**. [Fr. *attaquer* < OFr. < OItal. *attaccare*, of Germanic orig.] — *vt.* 1. To set upon with violent force. 2. To criticize strongly or in a hostile manner. 3. To start work on with purpose and vigor < attack a backlog of orders > 4. To begin to affect harmfully. — *vi.* To launch an attack. — *n.* 1. The act of attacking: ASSAULT. 2. The occurrence or onset of a disease. 3. The initial movement in a task or undertaking. 4. Mus. The way in which a passage or phrase is begun. — **at-tack'er** *n.*

*** SYN:** ATTACK, ASSAIL, ASSAULT, BESET, HIT, STRIKE. *v.* *core meaning:* to set upon with violent force < enemy troops attacking our positions >

at-tain (ä-tän') *v.* -**tained**, -**tain-ing**, -**tains**. [ME *atteignen* < OFr. *ataindre*, to reach to < Lat. *attingere*: *ad-*, to + *tangere*, to touch.] — *vt.* 1. To gain or accomplish by mental or physical effort < attain an objective > 2. To arrive at < attained the mountaintop > — *vi.* To succeed in gaining or accomplishing < attained to the presidency > — **at-tain'a-ble/i-ty**, **at-tain'a-ble-ness** *n.* — **at-tain'a-ble** *adj.*

at-tain-der (ä-tän'dər) *n.* [ME *attaindre*, conviction < OFr. *ataindre*, to convict, affect. — see *ATTAIN*.] *Law.* 1. The loss of all civil rights legally consequent to a death sentence or to outlawry, esp. for treason. 2. *Archaic.* Dishonor.

at-tain-ment (ä-tän'ment) *n.* 1. The act of attaining or condition of being attained. 2. Something attained.

at-taint (ä-tänt') *vt.* -**tainted**, -**taint-ing**, -**taints**. [ME *ataynten* < OFr. *ataindre*, p. part. of *ataindre*, to affect. — see *ATTAIN*.] 1. *Law.* To condemn by a sentence of attainder. 2. *Archaic.* To disgrace. 3. Obs. To accuse. — *n.* 1. Attainder. 2. *Archaic.* A disgrace: stigma. **at-tar** (ät'tär) *n.* [Pers. *attar*, perfumed < Ar. *utūr*, pl. of *ʾiz*, perfume.] A fragrant essential oil or perfume obtained from the petals of flowers, as roses.

at-tempt (ä-tēpt') *vt.* -**tempt-ed**, -**tempt-ing**, -**tempts**. [ME *attempen* < OFr. *attemper* < Lat. *attemperare*: *ad-*, to + *temperare*, to test.] 1. To try to do, make, or achieve. 2. *Archaic.* To tempt. 3. *Archaic.* To attack in order to subdue. — *n.* 1. An effort or try. 2. An attack or assault, as on one's life. — **at-tempt'a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tempt'er** *n.*

at-tend (ä-tēnd') *v.* -**tend-ed**, -**tend-ing**, -**tends**. [ME *attendre* < OFr. *atendre* < Lat. *attendere*, to heed: *ad-*, to + *tendere*, to stretch.] — *vt.* 1. To be present at. 2. To accompany as a circumstance or follow as a result < The announcement was attended by cheers > 3. a. To accompany or wait on as an attendant or servant. b. To take care of (e.g., a patient). 4. To take charge of. 5. To listen to: HEED. 6. *Archaic.* To wait for: EXPECT. — *vi.* 1. To be present. 2. To apply or direct oneself < attended to the difficulty > 3. To pay attention: HEED. 4. To remain ready to serve: WAIT < attend upon the guests > 5. Obs. To delay or wait. — **at-tend'er** *n.*

at-ten-dance (ä-tēn'dans) *n.* 1. The act of attending. 2. Those that attend a function.

at-tend-ant (ä-tēn'dant) *n.* 1. One who attends or serves another. 2. One who is present. 3. One that accompanies: CONCOMITANT. — *adj.* Accompanying or following as a result < the flu and attendant miseries > — **at-tend'ant-ly** *adv.*

at-ten-tion (ä-tēn'shən) *n.* [ME *attencioun* < Lat. *attentio* < *attendere*, to heed: — see *ATTEND*.] 1. Close or careful observation or heed: mental concentration. 2. The ability or power to concentrate mentally. 3. Observant consideration: NOTICE < Your complaint has come to my attention > 4. Courtesy or considerate regard, as for others' feelings. 5. **attentions.** Acts of courtesy, consideration, or gallantry, esp. by a suitor. 6. A military posture, with the body erect, eyes to the front, arms at the sides, and heels together. — *Used as a command.* — **at-ten-tion-al** *adj.*

attention deficit disorder *n.* A childhood syndrome characterized by hyperactivity and short attention span.

attention key *n.* Computer Sci. A function key on terminals that interrupts program execution by the central processing unit.

ä pat: ä pay ät care: ä father ät pet: ät be hw which I pit
i tie tr pier ö pot ö toe ö paw for oi noise oo took